

beyond sea, should have five years after the disability was removed to commence an action. The power of these commissioners was limited to the first of January 1796, and it was then suffered to expire, but by an act of 1804 ch. 67, the same number of commissioners has been again appointed, with these and other more extensive powers, being authorised on the application of any possessor of a lot or lots westward of Fort Cumberland, suggesting *manifest* errors in the certificates or patents of such lots, or in any line thereof, to correct and adjust the same in their judgments according to the original location thereof; a certificate of which location under the hands and seals of the acting commissioners, is to be returned to the clerk of the county court, and being recorded by him is to have the same effect as an adjudication made by the former commissioners, "any expression in said certificate of survey or patent, to the contrary, notwithstanding." This law is to continue in force until the year 1810, and has a peculiar bearing upon the records of the land office, but in speaking of so recent an act of the legislature I do not permit myself to make any further observations.

By an act of 1797, ch. 31, the register of the western shore land office was authorised and directed to make sundry corrections in the returns of the commissioners appointed as before mentioned, for the distribution of lots to officers and soldiers, and the adjusting the preemption of settlers, by erasing *numbers* erroneously assigned to particular persons and inserting opposite to their names other numbers specified in the act, which insertion was to be evidence of title equally with the original entries of the allotments made by the said commissioners. By subsequent acts the register was directed to correct and alter the location of certain lots in the particulars therein specified, the said alterations to be made by him in the certificates, the patents, and the records thereof, but no existing rights to be affected by those proceedings. These acts were passed after the expiration of the first commission just spoken of, and before the late renewal and extension of the authorities thereto attached.

At the session before mentioned of 1804 an act was passed reciting, in substance, that large bodies of land in Allegany county had theretofore been surveyed and were then lying on certificate, liable to warrants of proclamation, but that from the great quantities of bad land included they were not likely to be taken in the whole for purposes of cultivation; that by the rules of the land office these surveys could not be taken in part, and that it would be of public and private benefit, by vacating the certificates, to put those lands in a situation to be taken up in parts as vacant land. It was therefore ordained by this act that all certificates of the before mentioned des-